

RECYCLING: WHAT PLASTICS ARE ACCEPTABLE?

Plastic symbols explained

There are so many different logos and symbols on our recycling that it can often get very confusing to know what is actually acceptable in your brown recycling bin.

The symbols on plastics tell you which kind of plastic the item is made of and how recyclable it is.

This guide is designed to give you a better idea on what the common recycling symbols mean and which plastics are accepted in your brown recycling bin.

It's important to remember that not all plastics are recyclable in your brown bin, even if they are made from the same type of plastic as an item which is accepted. It's important to check the table below and our website to see what is acceptable.



Mobius Loop

This is the universal symbol for recycling and indicates that an object is capable of being recycled in some capacity.



The Green Dot

The Green Dot does NOT necessarily mean that the packaging can be recycled. It is a symbol used on packaging in many European countries and signifies that the producer has made a contribution towards the recycling of packaging.



Check Locally

The check locally symbol is used when 20% – 75% of councils can recycle this type of material. However, it does not mean it is currently accepted in your recycling bin - check online to see if that material is accepted. If it's not listed please put it in your waste bin or see if there are local recycling points such as supermarkets.

PLASTIC SYMBOLS:	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	EXAMPLES
	<p>PETE is one of the most common plastics, found in water and fizzy drink bottles. It's usually recycled into fibres/pellets which are used to make clothing, tubing or polyester materials.</p> <p>Accepted in your brown bin as:</p> <p>Drinks bottles, condiment bottles (i.e. tomato sauce), medicine pots, plastic jars (peanut butter etc.)</p>	<p>Water bottles, soft drink bottles, some food containers.</p>
	<p>Not accepted in your brown bin as:</p> <p>Black plastics: food trays, bottles etc. Carpets, insulation, sleeping bags, clothing or shoes.</p>	
	<p>HDPE is usually coloured or opaque and can be found in milk cartons, detergents and household cleaning bottles. It's recyclable into plastic lumber, more bottles or drainage pipes.</p> <p>Accepted in your brown bin as:</p> <p>Plastic milk or juice bottles, bottles for cleaning products (shampoo, shower gel etc.)</p>	<p>Cleaning products, milk bottles and detergents.</p>
	<p>HDPE isn't accepted in the form of:</p> <p>Black plastics: bottles, drainage pipes etc. Decking, plastic fencing, pipes, some carrier/reusable bags or plastic toys</p>	
	<p>PVC is often found in piping, medical plastics and some household items such as window trims.</p> <p>It can be made into new flooring, piping or guttering</p> <p>Not accepted in your brown bin</p>	<p>Piping, medical tablet bottles - hard plastics, guttering</p>
	<p>LDPE is a flexible plastic used in many day-to-day objects such as bread wrapping, cling film, plastic shopping bags and food packaging film.</p> <p>Not accepted in your brown bin</p>	<p>Cling film, plastic bags, food wrappings</p>
	<p>Polypropylene is a harder plastic which is used to make margarine tubs, yoghurt pots and some takeaway packaging.</p> <p>Accepted in your brown bin as:</p> <p>Clean food packaging (yoghurt pots, margarine/butter pots, meat trays)</p>	<p>Margarine tubs, yoghurt pots and meat trays.</p>
	<p>Polypropylene is not accepted in your brown bins as:</p> <p>Plant pots, DVD cases, Tupperware, disposable plates, nappies and black plastics</p>	<p>Food packaging, flower pots, DVD cases, Takeaway cups</p>
	<p>Polystyrene is found in packaging, some food trays and disposable plates and cups. It breaks up into lots of small pieces making it hard to recycle.</p> <p>Not accepted in your brown bin</p>	<p>Disposable plates/cups, takeaway packaging, delivery packaging.</p>